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Distinguished Member Award

Olan Forker

**Professor of Agricultural Economics
Cornell University**

Olan Forker was raised on a farm in Indiana. He received his B.S. degree at Purdue in 1950. He served for three years in the U.S. Army, and worked as a farm manager for four years with Halderman Farm Management Service. He completed his M.S. at Michigan State University in 1958, and his Ph.D. at the University of California at Berkeley in 1962. He remained at Berkeley as an extension economist until 1965, when he joined the faculty at Cornell University.

He is, perhaps, the profession's foremost expert on the economics of advertising commodities. His recent book, with R.N. Ward *Commodity Advertising: The Economics and Measurement of Generic Programs*, provides a comprehensive treatment of commodity advertising based upon the authors' extensive research experiences. He received an AAEA award for the quality of discovery in published research in 1975. Much of his research has been completed with young professionals, and his mentoring has been instrumental in many of them later completing successful research programs of their own.

Olan has also served the profession as an administrator. He served as the chair of the

Department at Cornell from 1976-85 and as the Graduate School Field Representative for Agricultural Economics, 1971-73 and 1975-76. He excels in encouraging others to bring out their best efforts. University colleagues demonstrated their respect for his leadership by electing him to one of the two faculty trustee positions at Cornell, 1984-88. He served as a director of the AAEA Foundation, 1986-89, and as its president, 1988-89. His professional activities include work in ten foreign countries. He currently is the leader of a program to strengthen the teaching of agricultural economics in Slovakia.

Olan's contribution to the NAREA is extensive. As a Northeast Department Chair, he served as a member of the Northeast Assembly, which directed the affairs of the NAREA in its formative years, serving as the president in 1980-81. He later served as president of the NAREA in 1991-92, providing leadership for a name change in the Association's journal. He has authored or co-authored five articles in the *NJARE*. His article with Liu, Kaiser and Mount received the first *NJARE* Article of the Year Award in 1990.

Distinguished Member Award

Steven Hastings

**Professor of Food and Resource Economics
University of Delaware**

Steven Hastings has been a member of the Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Association since 1972. During the last ten years, Steve has served the association in various important capacities. In 1983, he served as chairman of the NAREA Selected Papers and Symposia Committee and a member in 1982 and 1985. In 1985, he was elected as President of the Association and as a member of the Executive Board for three years. From 1986-89 he was appointed to the Editorial Board of the *Northeast Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics* (NJARE). In 1987, Steve served as chair of the Nominating and Finance Committees. More recently, in 1990, he was elected as Secretary-Treasurer for a three year term and a member of the Executive Committee for another three year term.

Steve's unselfish contribution to the association has been invaluable, particularly in his roles as President and Secretary-Treasurer. The leadership he has provided has greatly facilitated the growth of the association. It was during his tenure as Secretary-Treasurer that the association's records and finances were computerized. He also devoted a substantial amount of time to improve the collection of unpaid page charges for the *NJARE*. In fact, the membership of the association has increased over the last three years and the finances of the association has improved tremendously during his term as Secretary-Treasurer. Steve's role in the NAREA is vital, not only in the various official functions he has provided, but also as the association's unofficial "historian". Whenever the Executive Committee and/or the general membership needed to answer procedural question, Steve was always

prepared to shed some light on the issues involved.

Aside from his active participation in the NAREA, Dr. Hastings has played a major role in the development of "computer literacy" in the College of Agricultural Sciences at the University of Delaware. His activities in this area started over ten years ago and with his leadership, the Department of Food and Resource Economics has been identified as a key resource unit in computer education at the University of Delaware. Over a year ago, Steve planned and supervised the upgrade of college computer laboratory making the laboratory one of the most up-to-date computing facilities at the University of Delaware. Along with his microcomputer class, Steve also teaches undergraduate and graduate level courses in resource economics and rural development.

In addition to his teaching functions, Steve is an active researcher in the areas of rural and economic development. He has over a dozen journal articles, Experiment Station Bulletins, book chapters, and proceedings focusing on input-output analysis. He co-authored an article entitled "Analysis of the Variation of the Estimated Impacts from Five Regional Input-Output Models" which was published in the *International Regional Science Review*. This publication has provided an important contribution to input-output analysis by providing I-O researchers with information on the estimated impacts of using different regional I-O models.

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